ALLEGED REFUSAL BY DOORDARSHAN TO INTERVIEW RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS ON THE BUDGET

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam, I am very sorry to bring to the notice of the Government and particularly my friend, Mr. Upendra through you....

AN. HON. MEMBER: He is not your friend.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Yesterday in the evening by about 4 o'clock or 4.20, I met Prof. Thakur who was having a note or whatever it was and this said, "After the Budget is over you please go to room No. 62 where the T.V. people want to interview". I said, "If they want to interview, it is very nice because nobody bothers about showing the old people on the T.V." So Madam, what happened was, after the Budget and after 7 o'clock Prof. Thakur and myself thought that they were very serious. We went to room No. 62 and some Lok Sabha Members were there. Some good friends like Mr. Banatwala, Mr. Inderjit Gupta, Mr. Rathod and some other members were also sitting. Then myself and Prof. Thakur were sitting in a corner. I, being an old man, was sitting in the corner... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you bracketing Prof. Thakur also with old people?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Prof. Thagur, being young, went to that lady who was interviewing Mr. Banatwala and after that interview, he asked her, "We have received this and we are from the Rajya Sabha. Would you like to interview us?" "No, no", she said. "I am interviewing only Lok Sabha Members. You will go to that corner. They will take your interview". ...(*Interruptions*)... I said, "Very well. Nice. Lok Sabha first!" and you know... (*Interruptions*)... I will explain, Madam, the political part and Prof. Thakur will explain the academic part of it. What happened was, we went to that corner and there was another lady. She said, "We are from Delhi Doordarshan". She asked, "Where are you from?" We said, "We are from the Rajya Sabha". Then she refused to take our interview saying, "I take interview of only Lok Sabha Members". Both of us walked out and came down with a heavy heart as it was an insulting behaviour. Madam, I want to protest to the Minister. Being a Rajya Sabha Member, I am not a second-class Member from this Parliament.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: We have our own dignity. We have our own prestige and my friend, Mr. Upendra is a Rajya Sabha Member and a Minister in the Government. Madam, I am very much sorry for this insult. Then in the evening I went home and I was just having the pleasure of the evening... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No supplementaries on the pleasure!

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It was not of the night, it was of the evening. Then there was a telephone call from an officer. No, first a telephone call came from the All India Congress Committee office in the Parliament House. They said, it was from one Col. Ved Marwaha... (*Interruptions*)...He asked me... (*Interruptions*)...why I did not go to the interview... (*Interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He is not Mr. Marwaha; he is Mr. Ved Prakash.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I told him that I went there and also Prof. Thakur, and we were told that we were not going to be interviewed and that lady was interviewing the Lok Sabha Members only. So, I said, we could not be interviewed. Then he asked me whether I would give another interview. I said, "hell with that interview." Then, Madam, what happened was that the same Doordarshan officer also phoned up and I asked him whether the Minister had issued instructions not to interview

the Congress (I) Members and what the procedure was. You say that the Doordarshan and All India Radio are open. What open? Nothing is open; they are all locked. So, Madam, I lodge my protest through you to Mr. Upendra. That lady told us that she would only interview the Lok Sabha Members. She should be immediately suspended and our prestige and our dignity should be protected. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Madam, on the same point, I want to say something...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: On the same point, Madam ...(*Interruptions*)...In the panel discussion on the Doordarshan yesterday on the Budget, there were two people, one Mr. Viren Shah and the other, Mr. Jaswant Singh, both of the BJP....(*Interruptions*)... Both are from the BJP and it seems that the BJP has taken control of the Doordarshan, the BJP has taken over the Doordarshan. Nobody else was there and two Members from the BJP...(*Interruptions*)...Nobody bothered about us...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: This is RSS control of the Doordarshan...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The discussion was on the Union Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)...Many people are allowed to participate.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your views have been expressed. So, let the Minister answer now...(*Interruptions*)...Please sit down...(*Interruptions*)...Mr. Kalmadi, I have heard what you have said; I have heard it. Let the Minister reply. Now, please sit down. Let Prof. Thakur speak on this ...(*Interruptions*)...Yes, Prof. Thakur.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR (Bihar) Madam Deputy Chairman...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think what you are going to speak is the academic part!

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Madam, I join my friend, Mr. Kulkarni, in his protest on four counts.

Firstly, as a Rajya Sabha Member, when I personally went there and talked to the lady concerned, she did not take cognizance of our request and this reflects the attitude of the Doordarshan people and I hope it does not reflect the attitude of the Minister...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It does...(*Interruptions*)...

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: I take serious objection to this. Secondly, as a Member of Parliament, I took it at a personal level and I went there—forget about the invitation—and she did not take cognizance of that and, therefore, I take it as an insult to the office of a Member of Parliament...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Yes.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Thirdly, on the political count, as my friend, Mr. Kalmadi, has said, it is the established tradition that when the Budget is discussed, it is the professional competence which matters rather than the political opinion. Yesterday, for the first time, the tradition has been changed.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Yes.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Whether it is as a result of the pressure from the Minister or his masters, I do not know and I do not know about the details ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: This Government is depending too much on the BJP...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please wait. It is a very serious matter, a matter between the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Members... (*Interruptions*)...When two Members have been disappointed by the lady, at least this lady should give some support to you... (*Interruptions*)... So, let us hear him.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: The fact remains that it has brought professional injury to the discussion on the contents of the Budget, ignoring, at the same time, the tradition followed for long. I would like to know why.

Then, Madam, the last point of my protest is that there is a political manipulation in giving a decisive weightage to one section of the powers that be, totally ignoring the Opposition... (*Interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame... (*Interruptions*)...

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: I personally went there for the interview. But, because it was a very critical interview, it was not allowed perhaps... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, before the Minister says something, I also want to say one thing. You see, in the TV broadcasts, in the commentaries on the proceedings, the Congress (I) is completely ignored and a stepmotherly treatment is being given to them. Weightage is given to others. This is highly objectionable.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Madam... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister wants to say something. Let him answer. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Upendra belongs to Rajya Sabha and he protects the Members of Rajya Sabha, the dignity of Rajya Sabha. Two ladies have bothered you but I, a lady, want to protect you...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: There is another lady, Renuka, who is also supporting us.

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): Mr. Upendra has found a new friendship in Lok Sabha. He has almost deserted Rajya Sabha.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: No, no. Madam, ... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't repeat what everybody have said. It loses its impact.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam, I understand the feelings of the hon. Members. This misunderstanding arose because honourable Members still feel that we give hour to hour instructions to Doordarshan Akashvani... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): This is nothing but hypocrisy.

SHRI SUERSH KALMADI: He is in the hands of the BJP. * of the BJP...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not Parliamentary. If you want the Minister to protect the dignity of Members of Rajya Sabha, the dignity of Rajya Sabha, don't make such remarks.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Why not? * is Parliamentary and I will use it again and again. He is * of the BJP. BJP is the master and the whole Government is only * not only Upendra but the whole Government is * .

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam if they do not allow me to speak, then I won't reply...

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam, I am on a point of order.

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I won't allow you. Let him answer first.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Madam, I am on a point of order. I say he should not have been called *. He is not*. It is unfortunate that he has called him.* I don't blame him at all. But I say the Government is* of the BJP.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I change the word* to* of the BJP.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will they allow me to speak? Otherwise, I won't reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a serious matter. If you all interrupt like this, he cannot reply. You thought some Members of this House have been insulted by someone. Do you want to hear the Minister or not? Give him an opportunity to speak; otherwise, you cannot get an answer.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): I would like to seek a clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not a statement. Anyway I will give you a chance afterwords.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Two types of programmes were put out yesterday, one by the Doordarshan itself which took the reactions of some honourable Members and also of the general public which it used in the news. The second programme was by a private agency. As usual, as is the practice, this was given to the PTI TV Newstime who took up their own interviews and selected persons whom they wanted to interview. We did not indicate anything... (*Interruption*). Madam, if I have to indicate to the private agencies also whom they should interview and what they should do... (*Interruptions*) I will not reply then if this is the type of ... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Please take your seats. He is not obliged to answer. He is not obliged to answer immediately. But on my request he is answering. (*Interruptions*) Please take your seats. (*Interruptions*) Let me handle it. I can handle it. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. Take your seat. (*Interruptions*) I request you to take your seat.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Madam,... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If they do not listen, do you also behave in the same way? You want to be like one of them? It is entirely your freedom. Please take your seat. (*Interruptions*) The Minister is not under any rule obliged to answer immediately. But on the request of the Members and on my persuasion he is answering. When he is answering, he is giving the factual position. If you are satisfied, fine. If you are not satisfied, you can lodge your complaint to him again. You can write to him again or do what you like. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down Otherwise, I will ask him not to answer. (*Interruptions*). You don't answer if you don't like that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam, as I was mentioning, no instructions were given to the private agency about the persons to be picked up. When I myself saw the news, out of six hon. Members of Parliament interviewed, one was from each party, major party in Parliament; they were equally divided between the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. There were three hon. Members from the Rajya Sabha and three hon. Members from the Lok Sabha. No injustice was done and no discrimination was there. Thirdly, in the previous years all the hon. Members used to go to Room No. 62 or 63 wherever interviews were taken and whoever came they were taken. Some they were using. For example, twice my own interview was taken but they did not use it, because I went there unauthorisedly. They picked up some people. They cannot refuse. Some others go there. They cannot refuse. (*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: But this time, I think, there were also complaints from the general public. Hon. Members have the forum to give their opinion during the Budget discussion. And again they are using the Television time for the hon. Members of Parliament. That should be used more for the public and representatives of various cross-sections of people. (*Interruptions*) Among the 800 Members of Parliament, Madam, if every hon. Member, young and old as Mr. Kulkarni put it—if everybody wants to ventilate his views on the official media, it is very difficult to accommodate them. (*Interruptions*) If anybody had gone there because he had been called and if some misunderstanding was there, I am sorry. If they were ill treated. I will find out and enquire into it. But you should also understand the difficulty of the official media. If the official media has to accommodate all Members of Parliament, it has to have a whole day programme... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He was invited. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I will find out. I do not know who was invited. (*Interruptions*) Each party was represented. I can say that no party can complain. Every party was represented both in Hindi and English news. Therefore, no party can complain.

Finally, Madam, I strongly refute the allegation that the Ministry or the official media is under the control of any particular party. This is completely... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: He cannot go away like that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we take up Special Mentions. Mrs. Veena Verma.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: How can he walk out like that?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't talk about disrespect to the Chair. The less said the better.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It is an insult to the House. Madam.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर-प्रदेश) : यह सदन का अपमान किया है... (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already called Mrs. Veena Verma. Please take your seat.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Only two B.J.P. Members including a Member of Parliament were invited. Some others were not invited. Why did he not answer this question? This is the main question to be answered.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Incidents of irregularities in Examinations conducted by Delhi University

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की परीक्षा की उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं का गायब होना और खाली अंक पत्रों की खुले बाजार में बिक्री तथा अन्य धांधलियों की तरफ़ मैं इस सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूं।

उपसभापति महोदया, 18 मार्च 1990 को अखबार में छपी एक खबर के अनुसार दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में खाली मार्कशीट 50–50 रुपये में बिक रही है तथा दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के परीक्षा विभाग में पूर्ण अव्यवस्था का आलम है। उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं, अंक तालिकाओं तथा अन्य दस्तावेजों की सुरक्षा का कोई विशेष प्रबंध नहीं है। एक छात्र ने 50 रुपये में एक मार्कशीट अखबार संवाददाता को खरीदकर दी। इस अंक तालिका पर पहली सितम्बर 1988 की मुहर भी लगी है और सबसे ज्यादा गम्भीर बात यह है कि उस मार्कशीट पर परीक्षा नियंत्रक रवि भाटिया के